Business C6-C7
Around the World C8

SPORTS

David Shefter
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Soccer clinic

Above: Brian Bramer, 9, di-

Hooper puts it in gear for win

By RON B. STAPP
For the Signal

SAUGUS — With the racing action at Saugus Speedway running full throttle, the Sportsman main event at got stuck in neutral.

Fortunately, Lance Hooper was there to get things started again.

The defending Sportsman champion got things rolling, first moving past Sean Woodside and then John Watkinson III on the final six laps before narrowly holding on for his sixth feature win in seven weeks.

The 1985 Saugus High graduate also staved off elimination in the points race, with one points race left this season.

Hooper entered the race 34 points behind Gary Sigman, but picked up four points to keep his slim hopes of another championship alive.

The 25-year-old Palmdale resident started 20th, but quickly improved his position with the help of several caution flags which dominated the 40-lap race. The final six laps took nearly 30 minutes to complete.

Watkinson took the lead in the race by moving past polesitter Mark Austin on lap 12. Hooper moved close behind on the 38th before finally moving around for good on the final lap.

Watkinson was second, followed by Woodside and Sigman.

Sigman and Hooper each received a reprieve on what could have been a disastrous night.

Early in the race, Sigman was involved in an incident and spun out, but was allowed to retain his fifth place running position.

On the restart after a caution flag on lap 34, Woodside and Hooper came together, but both returned to their respective second and third place spots.

In the Pro Stock oval main event, points leader Ed Horst won his second feature race of the season.

The Reseda resident, who held a 28-point lead over Simi Valley's Scott Dinger entering the night's action, put himself in position to clinch the divisional points title with a near perfect night.

In addition to the main event victory, Horst also posted wins in the figure 8 trophy dash and both the oval and figure 8 heat races.

"It was an excellent night," Horst said. "It couldn't have been better. Well, we could've qualified better."

Horst started in third, but had improved to fourth place by the end of one lap. He moved past Terry Custer of Northridge on lap 12, before tracking down polesitter Victor Griffin five laps later.

Horst's only challenge came for Canyon Country native [redacted], who finished close behind in second place.

Crow's finish was all the more remarkable considering his position just one week ago. His car was demolished in the figure 8 main event last Saturday, but Don Reynolds loaned Crow his car.

Dennis Patterson of Whittier won the Mini Stock Racing Association Pro Four West Series main event.